THE DISSEMINATOR

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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An electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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FROM THE EDITOR

Lots of interesting news to report in this issue, though it's certainly "content-challenged" compared to the spectacular double-issue of last month. And don't be confused when you read "Seeing Stars" - Elvis has not been spotted at the Provincial Library! The article is actually about authority records and "Seeing Asterisks" didn't seem a catchy enough headline. Hmmm. Maybe next month we can get Madonna to put in an appearance... -- Sue Dirani

TECH TALK

In the last issue of The Disseminator, we reported on a well-attended Internet meeting held in Amherst on February 7. A listserver was set up for the group (CUI-GROUP) and the 40 or so subscribers have had quite a lively discussion.

The Wolfville Memorial Library of the Annapolis Valley Regional Library system has just added to the growing list of regional library home pages. Their page, mounted on a computer at Acadia University, can be viewed by following links from the Provincial Library's home page or at the following URL: http://ace.acadiau.ca/wolflib/home.html. Speaking of home pages, the Cumberland Regional Library home page has changed considerably! You can view all their great efforts at the following URL: http://rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca/regionals/cur or by following links from the Provincial Library's home page. Other regional libraries who have created their own pages are Colchester-East Hants Regional Library and Western Counties Regional Library. The Halifax City Regional Library and the Dartmouth Regional Library both maintain a home page on the Chebucto Freenet.

On February 22-24, John Richardson and Daniel Boivin, of DRA, visited the Provincial Library. Among their activities was a demonstration of their Z39.50-based searching software called DRA FIND. We have mounted a demonstration copy of DRA FIND on a few Provincial Library workstations for evaluation. Daniel and John also met with NSPL staff to discuss the "Option B" proposal. This is a plan to allow some of the regional libraries to run their local library systems off the Provincial Library's RS6000 computer. (Option A would be for the libraries to have their own local computers, either alone, or in consortium groupings in the province.)

DEPARTMENTAL CHANGES

One outcome of the recent Management Audit on the Department of Education has been a new name. We are now known as the Department of Education and Culture since we have taken on some of the duties previously performed by the Culture Division of the Department of Tourism and Culture. As well, Charles Gaudet has been appointed Executive Director in charge of Acadian and French Language Services.

ACCESS NOVA SCOTIA

Access Nova Scotia, previously known as the government's One Stop Centres, is a provincial government initiative designed to improve the accessability of government information, services and programs at all levels, for everyone. The first of the five centres, located across the province, has just opened in Kentville on March 17. The other centres will be opening soon in Yarmouth, Sydney, Truro and Bridgewater.

FUNDING REVIEW PROCESS

The Regional Libraries Funding Review Committee has been meeting since November 1994 in an effort to develop a new formula for funding regional library boards and to recommend the allocation of provincial grants for 1995-96. Membership on the 1994 Committee is comprised of three representatives each from the N.S. Department of Education and Culture, the Library Boards Association of Nova Scotia and the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. The representatives are: Wayne Doggett (Chair), Executive Director, Policy Branch, Dept. of Education and Culture; Doug Nauss (Vice-Chair), Executive Director, Finance and Operations Branch, Dept. of Education and Culture; Marion Pape (Secretary), Provincial Librarian, Dept. of Education and Culture; Gary Archibald, Western Counties Regional Library Board, Pamela Nicholson, Cape Breton Regional Library Board; John Kitz, Halifax City Regional Library Board; Alderman Bonita Calder, City of Sydney; Alderman Ralph Hawley, City of Dartmouth; Councillor Larry Honey, Town of Kentville. Each representative Group had a number of resource persons to assist in the work. The 1994-95 review process has been completed and a report is being prepared for presentation to the Minister with recommendations for approval.

ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY GRANTS

Provincial Librarian, Marion Pape, participated recently on the National Library's Adaptive Technology Awards Committee. The Committee provides grants to Canadian libraries on a cost-shared basis for adaptive technologies. There were many more applicants this year than in past years and Nova Scotia was well represented with applications from all areas of the province. The successful applicants will be announced shortly.

SEEING STARS

If you search the NcompasS OPAC with any regularity, you've probably already noticed the presence of asterisks next to some author entries and subject headings. The asterisk indicates that there are authority records in the system for these entries. To display the full authority record, enter the number beside the entry and an asterisk. This will display the hierarchical structure of the entry. For subject entries, that comprises broader terms (BT), narrower terms (NT), related terms (RT), and "use for" (UF) references. For author entries, it comprises "use for" (UF) and related terms (RT). As well, children's subject headings are now accompanied by "LCC" and French subject headings by "RVM" to make them more easily identified. An automatic clean-up process has taken place but there remains a lot of manual clean-up to be done. If you have any questions about authority records, please contact Joanne Irwin (jirwin@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

BSC/LIBRARY COOPERATION

On March 3, reference staff from the N.S. regional libraries and Provincial Library attended "Discovery Morning", an exchange of information and ideas with the Federal/Provincial Business Service Centre, a cooperative initiative which is supported by the Federal and Provincial governments. The staff there provide information, assistance and advisory services free of charge to members of the public in Nova Scotia who are starting or expanding a business. Some viable suggestions resulted from discussing ways in which the BSC and the N.S. regional libraries can cooperate to provide the best possible service to the public. These include: a BSC representative spending a day in regional libraries providing business-related assistance to anyone who books an appointment; the regional libraries furnishing the BSC with any promotional pamphlets outlining their services and/or resources available to business people; and the BSC depositing their promotional material in the regional libraries. After a discussion of and tour of the BSC, Eric Stackhouse (NSME) and Frances Anderson (NSBS) discussed the types of business information their respective libraries provide. The morning was very informative for regional staff as well as Provincial library staff.

CD-ROM'S IN USER SERVICES

Provincial Library's User Services has acquired two new CD-ROM products for use in reference services - Microsoft ENCARTA and Personal Medical Advisor. ENCARTA contains the 29 volume Funk & Wagnell Encyclopedia plus multimedia enhancements such as sound, animation and video clips while Personal Medical Advisor includes the full text of seven medical books intended for the layperson. In addition, we have renewed our subscription to the Magazine Article Summaries CD-ROM and have ordered Canadian Business & Current Affairs Complete Index for 1981-Present. Since User Services typically receives many health related questions we've also been testing EBSCO's Health Source CD-ROM to determine if it is useful in providing medical information for the layperson. If you have any questions about these CD-ROMs or would like a demonstration, please contact Carol Morris at 424-2477 or cmorris@nshpl.library.ns.ca.

AWARD-WINNING YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The Provincial Library has purchased a number of award-winning young adult and children's books by Canadian authors to be displayed by the main reception desk. The display will include winners of the Ann Connor-Brimer Award, as well as books winning other local and Canadian awards including the Governor General's Literary Awards, the Information Book Award, and the CLA Book of the Year for Children. Regular additions will be made to the display as new awards are granted. The display can be viewed by anyone visiting the Provincial Library.

AUTOMATED CIRCULATION

As of March 1 1995, we began circulating monographs from the Provincial Library's collections using the circulation module on MultiLIS. Previously, while the Talking Books collection was already being circulated on MultiLIS, we were still maintaining the manual circulation system for monographs while testing the automated one. The advantage to using the automated system is that libraries searching NcompasS will now be advised of the loan status of an item before sending us the request, not to mention that circulation procedures are much faster now. As items are returned to us the manual circulation file will dwindle down and soon disappear forever! (Insert here staff members dancing with delight.)

PROFESSIONAL READING

This month, for your viewing and reading pleasure, we are featuring an ALA Video and a special report on the impact of the information highway on British Columbia.

1) Be Prepared - Security and Your Library. [videorecording] Towson, Md.: American Library Association, 1994. (Call # Prof 025 .82 Be p) - The latest addition to our growing collection of videos on library related topics, this ALA production focuses on the important aspects of library security. It covers such topics as how to design an effective security policy, how to approach disruptive patrons, personal safety during a robbery, personal safety when entering or leaving a building, internal theft and special tips for isolated or small libraries. Running time is 35 minutes.

2) Goss, Gilroy & Associates. Socio-economic implications of a British Columbia Information Highway : A Summary Report. Prepared for the Telecommunications Workers' Union of British Columbia; prepared by Goss Gilroy Inc, 1994. (Call # Prof 384.3 Soc) - This report is a culmination of findings and recommendations of a study commissioned by the Telecommunications Workers' Union of British Columbia. The objective was to fill important gaps in current knowledge regarding the impact of information technology on the future development of British Columbia. Policy areas identified in this report are health, education, environment, regional development, community development, cultural development and social development.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

For those of you who are not already familiar with the services of the Provincial Library, the

Professional Collection is at your disposal. Open to any library worker or library student in Nova Scotia, the Professional Collection contains books and serials on library and information science. Apart from the collection itself, Frank Oram also provides a literature searching service where library workers in Nova Scotia can receive a list of pertinent citations on any library-related topic usually within 48 hours. He may even be able to forward the articles or books themselves. Forward your inquiries to Frank Oram at 424-2480 or foram@nshpl.library.ns.ca.